

The Cause of an innocent, upright-hearted People V I N D I C A T E D,

Who dare not offend against God's holy Law, that's written in their hearts, which is *holy, just and good*, and so not to be turned from.

A L S O,

Several REASONS published, why they cannot Joyn, nor Conform unto, nor Worship amongst the Assemblies of the CHURCH of ENGLAND.

I. **B**ecause both Priests and People follow too much the devices of their own hearts lusts (according to their own confession) Therefore we cannot joyn with them.

II. Because they offend against God's holy Law, that is holy, just and good (as they confess) which he hath written in the hearts of mankind, (and they who partake of their Sins, must partake of their Plagues also) Therefore we cannot joyn with them.

III. Because they have left undone (as they confess) those things which they ought to do: Therefore we cannot joyn with them.

IIII. Because they have done those things which they ought not to do, and that there is no health nor soundness in them (as they confess) Therefore we dare not joyn with them.

V. Because they are miserable offenders (according to their own confession) and *Wo* is pronounc'd against them by which the offences come: Therefore we cannot joyn with them.

VI. Because the Priests of the *Common-Prayer*, do not walk according to it, but contrary: for by that they are to pray for, and not to persecute those that are not of their Religion, with these words: *Lord have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels and Hereticks, and take from them all Ignorance, and hardness of heart, and Contempt of thy Word: and so fetch them home (blessed Lord) to thy Flock, that they may be saved amongst the Remnant of thy true Israelites, and be made one Fold, under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ:* professing one thing, and practising another: Therefore we dare not joyn with you.

VII. Because it is the certain Faith and Belief of our hearts, That none but Christ alone hath power to remit, absolve or forgive sin, and preserve from the commission thereof: But the Members of the Church of *England* do hold, that power is given to them to absolve men from their sins: Therefore we cannot joyn with them.

VIII. Because the Members of the Church of *England* are found in the nature of *Cain, Ishmael, Esau*, and other Persecutors (in persecuting their Native Country-men, only for worshipping God in Spirit and Truth) and yet say, they believe in *God the Son, who hath redeemed them, and all mankind*: If all mankind are redeemed, then they make themselves transgressors: Therefore we cannot joyn with them.

IX. By the *Common-Prayer* they should hurt no body by word nor deed, but should keep *God's holy Will and Commandment*, (and the Will of God, is, the *sanctification*, and not the *destruction* of his People) But they are hurting both in word and deed (witness the Prisons, where many lie as *Hereticks*; not admonished, neither by their life nor doctrine) Which is not the way to convert people to God, nor to save a man out of the snares of death; for that Kingdom shall not be established that is set up by *Violence*: And we seeing these things, we dare not joyn with them.

X. We whom you call *Hereticks*, have (according to those words which God spake and said, *I am the Lord thy God: and thou shalt have no other Gods but me: but in the Earth there are many lords, and many gods*) unto us only *one God*, and he hath *enclined our hearts to keep his Law*: Therefore we cannot joyn with them that offend against his holy Law.

XI. Because we are turned to the Lord, from whom no secrets can be hid; who cleanse the secrets of our hearts by the inspiration of his holy Spirit, and are led thereby; according to the words of the *Common-Prayer*: and yet you hate us without a cause. (Surely you do not mean as you speak; if you did, you would not persecute us, both in body and estate: this is not the way to reduce us to your Religion; for you are *miserable offenders*, not only of *man*, but of *the Lord*, who will certainly plead with you, and reward you according to your doings) Therefore we cannot joyn with you.

XII. Because you differ from the Ministers of Christ: for they were not made by man, nor by the will of man, but by the revelation of the Son of God in them; and so they having known the terrors of the Lord, perswaded men: and did not persecute them, but endeavored night and day to turn them from *Darkness to Light*, and from the power of *Satan to God*: But we seeing the Ministers of this Generation led by another spirit, and not by the same the Apostles were; therefore we cannot joyn with them.

XIII. Because the Ministers of Christ said, *For so is the Will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness*. But we finding this Generation of Teachers, using their liberty (given them of men, and not of God) for a cloak of maliciousness: Therefore we dare not joyn with them.

Lastly, As it was written by the Apostle *Paul* to *Timothy*, saying, *All that will live godly in Christ Jesus, must suffer Persecution: seeing evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived*; exhorting him to continue in the things that he had seen and learned, knowing of whom he had learned them: and said, *From a Child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make a man wise unto Salvation, through Faith that is in Christ*: and charged him to preach the Word, being instant in season and out of season; to reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine: and did not say, he should bring them to their Courts to get money of them, or cast their bodies into Prison; nor to excommunicate them that were not of them: This was not Christ's Doctrine, nor the Apostles Practice, who said, *Let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, that they may glorify your Father which is in Heaven*. And so by outward force they did not bring people to God; but by good example, keeping their Consciences void of offence towards God and man. But yet the *Jews* and the *Heathen* that knew not God, nor Christ, they persecuted and hated Christ and the Apostles without a cause, calling Christ *Beelzebub, the Prince of Devils*; and the Apostle *Paul*, a *Pestilent fellow*, and a *Ring-leader of the Sects*, and said *he was not worthy to live*, because he said *God was not worshipped in the Temples made with hands*. And is it not so now? What a deal of persecuting, and imprisoning, and speaking all manner of evil against (in this Nation) them that worship God in the Spirit, by which they know the Lord, and in the same worship him? And because we see the Teachers of this Generation like unto them in the dayes of old, persecuting those that God hath chosen; therefore we deny them.

From one who desires the Everlasting Welfare of all souls,
called

THOMAS GREEN.